(b) At present, 70 employees are involved in various litigation/court cases, police cases etc.

(c) 63 employees are involved in court cases as petioners/ applicant/complainant/ plaintiff against ITPO. 5 employees are involved in police cases. 2 employees have filed writ petitions against ITPO challenging disciplinary proceedings.

(d) The following steps have been taken to reduce litigation in ITPO:—

(i) Welfare & Grievances Officer has been appointed.

(ii) Opportunity is given for constant interaction between Management and the Employees' Union and Officers' Association.

(iii) The Joint Consultative Machinery between Management and staff or ITPO also looks into various grievances from time to time.

Extreme focus groups

5088. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 34 extreme focus groups;

(b) the details of the extreme focus groups.

(c) whether it is a fact that various recommendations have been made by these extreme focus groups; and

(d) whether these recommendations have been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, A list of thirty-four 'Extreme Focus Products/Product Groups were identified by the Government aimed at increasing the export of these products by 30 per cent in value or volume every year. These are: Acquaculture, Agro Chemicals, Auto Components, Bicycles and Parts, Cement, Complete Vehicles, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Dyes and Intermediates, Electric Power Generation & distribution equipment, Floriculture, Footwear, Fresh fruits, Gold Jewellery, Granites, Handtools, I.C. Engines & Parts, Industrial Castings and Forgings Tomato Paste Products, Tropical Fruit Juices, Pulp & Concentrates, Preserved Mushrooms (Processed Foods), Readymade Garments, Rice, Software packages, system software, Network, CAD/CAN (Software), Spices, Sugar, Molasses, Alcohol including Ethyl Alcohol, Sugar Machinery. Synthetic & Man Made Textiles, Tyres;

(c) and (d) A number of recommendations have been made by a team set up to go into the reports given by 26 Groups which led to identify 34/Extreme Focus Products/Products Groups'. These are common to most 'Extreme Focus Product Groups. These recommendations relate to:—

(i) Policy issues,

(ii) Procedural simplifications;

(iii) Infrastructural improvements and

(iv) Institutional arrangements.

These is another set of recommendations which is specific to an industry or a product group. These relate to constraints and problems experienced by exporters of particular products.

Pursuant to the recommendations, several measures have been taken by the Government comprising trade policy, fiscal, credit, infrastructure institutional and administrative arrangements. Specific mention may be made of unified market determined exchange rate system reduction in import duty on specified capital goods from 40 per cent to 25 per cent, reduction in import duty on raw materials, to increase availability of export credit at lower rates of interest, opening of Inland container depot and container freight stations. Institutional arrangements like setting up six Task Forces also need mention which covered agricultural and agro products, electronics and information technology, textile garments and cemicals, pharmaceuticals and granites. Administrative measures comprise and setting up tf ERC (Exporters Grievance Redressal Cell).